

I wish to say here that I have no definite opinion as to the origin of the word "Christ." In my article on the subject (*The Open Court* for February) I only wished to call attention to the difficulties that beset the term and deem the question as to its origin still open for discussion. I still consider it possible, I might even say probable, that the word "Christ" is an attempt to translate the Hebrew Messiah in the sense of "worthy to be anointed." Undoubtedly the word originated in Hebrew circles at Alexandria. Accordingly Egyptian or any Oriental pagan influence is not excluded, for Alexandria was a center of learning, and we know that even the philosophies of distant India were not unknown there.

The solution offered by Mr. Brewer is interesting and ought to be seriously considered. At the same time I will say that there are many striking derivations of Greek names from the Egyptian language. There is a remarkable coincidence in the sound of the words "*natura*" and "*neter*" which in Egyptian means "God," but I can not help saying that we have to deal here with an obvious coincidence, for the derivation of *natura* from the root NAT, "to grow," which also appears in the verb *nascor*, is too well established to be ignored. It corresponds exactly to the same word in Greek which is *physis*, derived from *physein*, "to grow."

Very interesting is Mr. Brewer's derivation of Aphrodite from either *Pha-raa-da-t*, "gift of the sun," or from *Pha-raa-tut*, "the vestal of the sun." There is no question that the name "Aphrodite" was not originally a Greek word, and that its origin should be Egyptian is by no means improbable.

There are other names of Greek mythology not mentioned by Mr. Brewer which the Greeks adopted from Egypt, especially the word Elysion which is the Egyptian A-a-lu, Rhadamentys, the King of Elysium, and Charon (the Babylonian *Kaleb Ea*, and the Egyptian *Kare*, skipper), the ferryman on the Styx.

#### QUESTIONS FOR PSYCHICAL RESEARCH.

The American Society for Psychical Research is circulating a request for information with regard to unusual mental experiences of all types. This is issued in the form of a questionnaire, and to be of any value whatever it is very important that as large a number of answers as possible be obtained.

In responding to the questions informants are requested to answer "Yes" or "No" to each question according to the circumstances of their experiences and to write out a detailed account of such as are answered affirmatively. In general, it is well to report experiences as soon as possible after their occurrence, but in any case the day and hour of the incidents should be recorded when known and all possible details regardless of the points that may most interest the narrator. Pertinent documents are valuable, and it is best to avoid theoretical explanations in the relation of facts.

The Society guarantees that neither names nor facts shall be used in any public manner without permission.

#### LIST OF QUESTIONS.

1. Have you ever experienced any interesting *Illusions*, visual, auditory, tactual, or other type?
2. Have you ever had any *Hallucinations*, visual, auditory, or other type?
3. Have you ever had any experiences which were evidently mere *chance coincidences*?

4. Have you had any remarkable *dreams*, whether coincidental or otherwise?

5. Have you had any remarkable *visions* or *auditory experiences*, not of the nature of apparitions and not of a coincidental character?

6. Do you know of any *visions* or other interesting experiences of *dying persons*?

7. Have you ever had any *apparitions* of living or deceased persons, whether coincidental or otherwise?

8. Have you ever had any experiences in so-called *clairvoyance* or *clair-audience*, representing really or apparently supernormal knowledge of physical objects, places, or events out of all possible range of normal sense perception?

9. Do you know of any remarkable phenomena associated with or apparently due to hypnotic conditions?

10. Have you ever had any *premonitions*, or experiences really or apparently forecasting future events?

11. Have you ever had any experiences in *thought transference* scientifically called *telepathy*?

12. Have you ever had any unusual experiences under the influence of ether or chloroform?

13. Have you ever had any unusual experiences in connection with the use of narcotics or stimulants, whether taken for medical or other purposes?

14. Have you ever had any personal knowledge of instances of subconscious stimulation of other persons or personalities, in other words cases of alternating personalities, or occasional instances of subconscious mental action of an interesting character?

15. Have you ever had any experience with automatic writing or drawing, the Ouija board, and the Planchette?

16. Have you ever had any experiences with mediums or psychics so called?

17. Have you ever had any experiences in connection with "*haunted*" houses?

18. Have you ever heard any *raps* or noises which apparently could not be explained by ordinary causes?

19. Have you ever witnessed the movements of objects without apparent physical contact and under circumstances suggesting unknown or unusual causes?

20. Have you ever observed, or had reason to believe, the existence of real or apparent supernormal experiences among animals of any kind?

21. Have you observed or known any phenomena among the blind or the deaf and dumb that were apparently not explained by ordinary causes?

22. Do you know any persons who have had any of the experiences enumerated in the above questions? If so, can you ascertain name and address and also whether we can be permitted to have communication with the same?

Please to address all reports and records to Dr. James H. Hyslop, 519 West 149th St., New York, N. Y.

## WAS GALILEO GALILEI TORTURED?

To the Editor of *The Open Court*:

With reference to the question of Galileo having been put to the torture, I have made investigations with the following results: